

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT Czech Border Installations Opposite  
Kautzen, District Waidhofen an der Thaya,  
Lower Austria

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Presented below is a survey of a portion of the Czechoslovak border of Lower Austria opposite Kautzen, district Waidhofen an der Thaya, prepared in May 1958. The sector described covers about 12 kilometers along the border from the point where the district boundary of Gmuend and Waidhofen an der Thaya meets the international border (E 15° 10' - N 48° 57') to the point where the road from the Czech village of Kuni crosses the border about three kilometers north of the Austrian village of Brunn. A sketch of the area is attached to this report.

- 1. Barbed-Wire Fences:** Coming from the adjacent sector the regular three rows of electrified barbed wire run SE between the Bystrice Nova - Romova road and the Brand pond. About 500 meters ESE of Czech bench mark (Kote) 617 (sic)<sup>1</sup> the barbed-wire fences turn east and disappear into the woods. They emerge again SE of Rajcherov and can be seen crossing through the northern part of the pond. The barbed-wire fences then pass just south of the church in Rajcherov and continue east approaching within 200 meters of the border. The barbed wire then disappears into the wooded area of the Kuehberg where it is visible once for a stretch of about 150 meters in the area south of Czech Kote 672; at this point the barbed wire is only 50 meters from the border. The barbed-wire entanglements emerge from the woods about 700 meters west of Kostalkov and continue east, passing within 70 meters of the border just north of the Austrian village of Klein Taxen, to a point about 400 meters east of the church in Kostalkov. The barbed wire then turns NE and passes east of the Czech village of Kuni, about 250 meters west of the border, and then curves gradually NW into the next sector.
- 2. Entry Points through the Barbed Wire:**
  - a. There is a gate about 500 meters ESE of the church in Kostalkov.
  - b. There is a tunnel under the barbed-wire entanglements south of Czech Kote 672.
- 3. Road Blocks:** All of the roads and footpaths in this sector which cross the border have been barricaded with wooden barriers, which are by now rotting away. In addition all of the roads have been rendered impassable to vehicles by means of transverse ditches.

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4. Observation Towers:

- a. There is an observation tower about 600 meters NNE of Czech Kote 617 (sic)<sup>1</sup>.
- b. There is a watch tower about 500 meters ENE of Czech Kote 617 (sic)<sup>1</sup>.
- c. There is an observation point on top of the customs house in Romava.
- d. There is an observation tower on the Triftberg about 500 meters NE of the church in Rajcherov.
- e. There is an observation tower about 800 meters west of the church in Kostalkov.
- f. There is a watch tower about one kilometer NE of the church in Kostalkov.
- g. About 400 meters SE of Kuni, in front of the barbed-wire entanglements, is an old-type watch tower, which is only used occasionally.

5. Surveyor's Towers:

- a. There is a 20-meter high surveyor's tower on the high point about 1,800 meters NW of Romava, Czech Kote 647.
- b. There is a 20-meter surveyor's tower on the top of the Kuehberg (Czech Kote 672).
- c. There is a surveyor's tower about four meters high on the top of the Stuhlbachberg (Czech Kote 614).

6. Border Command Posts:

- a. There is a border company of undetermined strength housed in the former Romava customs house. The house is just a few hundred meters from the border; the barbed-wire fence in this area is about one kilometer north of the command post. There is an observation post on the roof of the building and a television antenna. The barking of dogs could be heard at the time of the inspection. There is a target practice area north of the headquarters.
- b. There is another border company located in Stare Mesto.

7. Patrol Activities: Patrols from the unit in Romava apparently patrol as far east as the Kuehberg. North of Kostalkov a double patrol on horseback was sighted. Most of the watch towers in this area were manned during the inspection period.

8. Miscellaneous Observations:

- a. Target practice with carbines was observed on the firing range near the Romava command post during the afternoon of 8 May 1958.
- b. It was noted that there were insulators along the ground under the middle row, that is the electrified row, of the barbed-wire entanglements in this area. There were also small insulators along the upper edge of the inner row (Czech side) of barbed wire. This row is normally not electrified and presumably the wire carried along these insulators is a low-charge warning wire.
- c. About 10 to 20 meters inside the barbed-wire fence from Kostalkov to Kuni, a new row of posts about 50 centimeters in height were being set up. The work on installing these posts was being done at night by members of the border guard units. Apparently these posts are for trip-wires. Similar

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posts were seen piled up along the edge of the woods on the Kuehberg presumably indicating that trip-wires are being set up over the top of the Kuehberg.

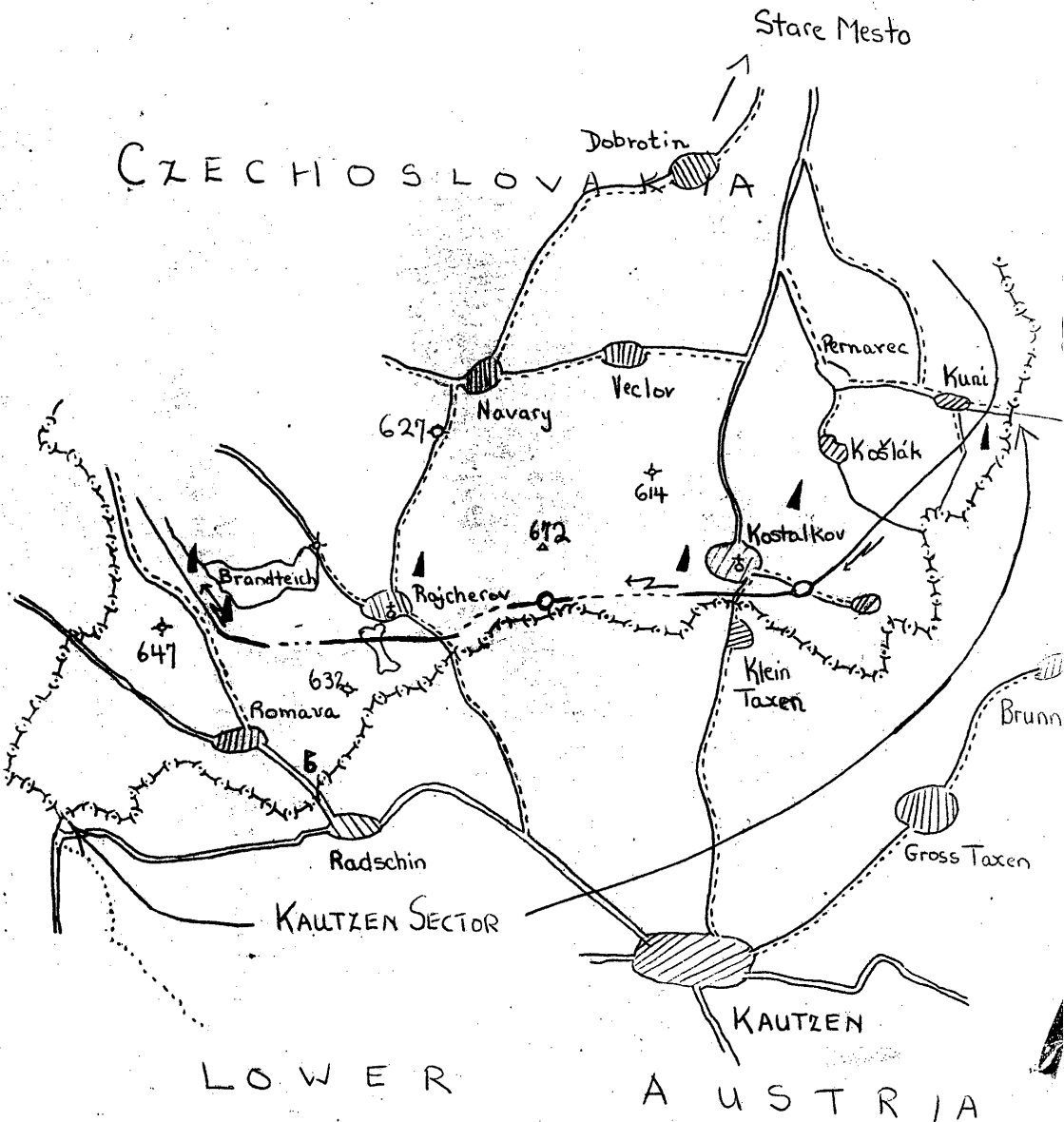
- d. The Czech villages of Romava, Rajcherov, Kostalkov, Koslak, Kuni and Pernarec have been razed to the ground; only the church in Rajcherov and the church in Kostalkov have been left standing.

1 ☐ Comment: Presumably Czech Kote 647 is meant.

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